

Appl. No. 10/732,758
Amdt. dated April 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 8, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A package of flexible articles adapted to be stacked vertically upon and beneath other such packages, the package comprising:
 - a plurality of flexible articles having folded edges;
 - a structural insert partially surrounding the flexible articles, the insert comprising a base and two opposed side walls extending from the base to define a generally U-shaped channel for receiving the flexible articles, each side wall extending from the base to a ~~free~~ an upper edge spaced from the base;
 - a flexible outer covering containing the insert and the flexible articles; and
 - wherein each side wall of the insert includes a plurality of cut-outs extending into the wall from the ~~free~~ upper edge thereof to form a plurality of spaced-apart support ribs[.], and
wherein the folded edges of the flexible articles are substantially flush with the upper edges of the structural insert and each flexible article is in communication with at least one other flexible article within the generally U-shaped channel.
2. (Previously Presented) The package of claim 1, wherein said support ribs are evenly spaced-apart.
3. (Original) The package of claim 2, wherein each support rib has the same shape as an adjacent cut-out.
4. (Original) The package of claim 3, wherein each support rib has the shape of a rectangle.
5. (Original) The package of claim 3, wherein each support rib has the shape of a triangle.
6. (Original) The package of claim 3, wherein each support rib has the shape of a truncated triangle.
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Presented) The package of claim 1, wherein the area defined by the plurality of cut-outs is greater than 10% of the total area of the insert.

9. (Previously Presented) The package of claim 8, wherein the area defined by the plurality of cut-outs is greater than 20% of the total area of the insert.

10. (Previously Presented) The package of claim 8, wherein the area defined by the plurality of cut-outs is about 30% of the total area of the insert.

11. (Original) The package of claim 1, wherein the insert is formed from a corrugated board.

12. (Original) The package of claim 1, wherein the flexible articles are contained within at least one package of articles.

13. (Original) The package of claim 1, wherein the flexible articles are absorbent articles.

14. (Original) The package of claim 13, wherein the absorbent articles are disposable.

15. (Original) The package of claim 14, wherein the absorbent articles are training pants.

16. (Original) The package of claim 14, wherein the absorbent articles are infant diapers.

17. (Original) The package of claim 14, wherein the absorbent articles are feminine care products.

18. (Original) The package of claim 1, wherein the flexible outer cover is a polymer film which is compression wrapped about the flexible articles and the insert.

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19. (Currently Amended) A package insert for supporting a plurality of flexible articles within a flexible outer covering wrapped around the insert and the flexible articles, the package insert comprising;

a base;

two opposed side walls extending from the base to define a generally U-shaped channel for receiving the flexible articles, each side wall extending from the base to a free edge an upper edge spaced from the base; and

wherein each side wall of the insert includes a plurality of cut-outs extending into the wall from the free edge upper edge thereof to form a plurality of spaced-apart support ribs, such that the package insert is configured to receive ~~a stack of flexible articles~~ within the channel of the package insert a stack of flexible articles, each flexible article having at least one folded edge and wherein the package insert is further configured to be stacked vertically upon and beneath other such packages package inserts[.]; and

wherein the folded edges are substantially flush with the upper edges of the package insert and each flexible article is in communication with at least one other flexible article when the flexible articles are received by the generally U-shaped channel.

20. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 19, wherein said support ribs are evenly spaced-apart.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 20, wherein each support rib has the same shape as an adjacent cut-out.

23. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 22, wherein each support rib has the shape of a rectangle.

24. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 22, wherein each support rib has the shape of a triangle.

25. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 22, wherein each support rib has the shape of a truncated triangle.

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26. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 19, wherein the area defined by the plurality of cut-outs is greater than 10% of the total area of the insert.
27. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 26, wherein the area defined by the plurality of cut-outs is greater than 20% of the total area of the insert.
28. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 27, wherein the area defined by the plurality of cut-outs is about 30% of the total area of the insert.
29. (Previously Presented) The package insert of claim 19, formed from a corrugated board.
30. (Currently Amended) A blank for forming a package insert comprising:
a base panel including a first side edge and a second side edge;
a first side wall panel joined to the first side edge, the first side wall panel comprising a free an upper edge spaced from the first side edge, and at least one cut-out extending into the first side wall panel from the free upper edge thereof, wherein the at least one cut out is rectangular in shape;
a second side wall panel joined to the second side edge, the second side wall panel comprising a free an upper edge spaced from the second side edge of the base panel; and
wherein the blank is configured to form an insert wherein each side wall of the insert includes a plurality of cut-outs extending into the wall from the free upper edge thereof to form a plurality of spaced-apart support ribs, such that the insert is configured to receive a stack of flexible articles within the channel of the insert and is further configured to be stacked vertically upon and beneath other such packages package inserts.
31. (Previously Presented) The blank of claim 30, wherein said support ribs are evenly spaced-apart.
32. (Original) The blank of claim 31, wherein each support rib has the same shape as an adjacent cut-out.
33. (Original) The blank of claim 30, wherein the area defined by the cut-outs is about 30% of the total area of the blank.

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34. (Withdrawn) A method for forming a plurality of package inserts comprising:
- forming a first pair of spaced-apart fold lines on a sheet material to define side edges of bases for a first set of package inserts;
 - forming a second pair of spaced-apart fold lines on the sheet material to define side edges of bases for a second set of package inserts, the second pair of fold lines being spaced laterally from the first set of fold lines;
 - cutting the sheet material along undulating lines adjacent the pairs of fold lines to form side walls for the package inserts between the fold lines and a plurality of cut edges, at least one of the cut edges defining support ribs on side walls of one set of package inserts that alternate with nested support ribs on side walls of a laterally adjacent set of package inserts.
35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the at least one cut along the undulating lines forms support ribs in the side walls of one set of package inserts which have the same shape as alternating, nested support ribs in the side walls of a laterally adjacent set of package inserts.
36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of cutting the sheet material transversely with respect to the fold lines so as to separate each package insert in a set of inserts from adjacent package inserts in the set.
37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of folding the cut side walls of each package insert relative to the base thereof, along the fold lines, to define a generally U-shaped channel.
38. (Currently Amended) A package of flexible articles adapted to be stacked vertically upon and beneath other such packages, the package comprising:
- a plurality of flexible articles having folded edges;
 - a structural insert partially surrounding the flexible articles, the insert comprising a base and two opposed side walls extending from the base to define a generally U-shaped channel for receiving the flexible articles, each side wall extending from the base to a free an upper edge spaced from the base, and each free upper edge defining an undulating pattern;
 - a flexible outer covering containing the insert and the flexible articles; and
- wherein each side wall of the insert includes a plurality of cut-outs extending into the wall from the free upper edge thereof to form a plurality of spaced-apart support ribs[[]], and

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wherein the folded edges of the flexible articles are substantially flush with the upper edges of the structural insert and each flexible article is in communication with at least one other flexible article within the generally U-shaped channel.

39. (Original) The package of claim 38, wherein the undulating pattern comprises a plurality of evenly spaced-apart support ribs.

40. (Original) The package of claim 39, wherein each support rib has the same shape as an adjacent support rib.

41. (Original) The package of claim 40, wherein each support rib has the shape of a rectangle.

42. (Original) The package of claim 40, wherein each support rib has the shape of a triangle.

43. (Original) The package of claim 40, wherein each support rib has the shape of a truncated triangle.